India's share in purchase of ARMS

27. SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that during 2004, India accounted for 15 per cent of global weapon sales valued at $ 5.7 billion;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government is aware that such heavy arms acquisition are likely to send a wrong signal to the world community about India's credentials and if so, the steps proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Amount spent on capital acquisition in respect of three Services during 2004-2005 was about 6 billion USD. It will not be in the interest of national security to divulge information on details of capital acquisition cases on the floor of the House. Capital acquisition for the Armed Forces is made in the context of the prevailing security environment, emerging technologies, decommissioning of existing platforms and availability of funds amongst others. The armed forces have to be adequately strengthened to safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the country.

Modernisation of special forces of the army

28. SHRI THENNALAG. BALAKRISHNA PILLAI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the year in which the plan for modernization of the special forces of the Army had been envisaged;

(b) whether the modernisation plan could not be started till date;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken to modernize the special forces?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) The modernization of the special forces was envisaged in 2001.

(b) to (d) The modernization of the Armed Forces including Special Forces is a continuous process. In the 10th Army Plan, a sum of Rupees four hundred crore have been earmarked for the modernization of Special